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EDITORIAL.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL.

THE DEGRADATION OF THE GENERAL PART OF THE REGISTER.

The following Order in Council, giving effect to the modification of Rule 9 of the Rules of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, proposed by Dr. Chapple in the House of Commons on June 13th, and carried by thirty votes, owing to a combine of Medical Members in the House and the Labour Party, appeared in the *London Gazette* of July 10th:—

The Order in Council.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 7th day of July, 1923.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS a humble Address has been presented to His Majesty by the Commons House of Parliament, pursuant to subsection (4) of Section three of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, praying that a certain amendment to the Rules made by the General Nursing Council of England and Wales (which said amendment was approved by the Minister of Health on the 24th day of May, 1923) might be modified in the manner set forth in the said Address:

Now, therefore, His Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred on Him by the said Nurses Registration Act, 1919, to order that the said amendment be modified in accordance with the terms of the said Address, and it is hereby ordered as follows:—

(1) The amendment of Rule made by the General Nursing Council of England and Wales, and approved by the Minister of Health on the 24th day of May, 1923, shall be modified and shall have effect as follows:—

“ After Rule 9 (1) (f) insert—

‘ (g) In the case of a nurse who was at 1st November, 1916, engaged in actual practice, and who produces the following evidences of knowledge and experience:—

‘ (a) A certificate of good character;

‘ (b) A certificate signed by a matron of a general hospital or an infirmary or by two medical men, setting out that the applicant

has been in attendance upon the sick in the capacity of a nurse for a period of not less than three years prior to the 1st November, 1919; and

‘ (c) A certificate signed by a registered nurse and by two medical men, one of whom shall be on the staff of a general hospital, setting out that the applicant has adequate knowledge and experience of medical and surgical nursing, and is competent to attend upon the sick in the capacity of a nurse:

‘ Provided that the Council may require the applicant, as a condition precedent to registration to present herself for special inquiry before a medical officer or officers appointed by the Council.’ ”

(2) This Order may be cited as the General Nursing Council (England and Wales) Rules Modification Order, 1923, and shall come into operation on the date hereof.

M. P. A. HANKEY.

The effect of this Order is to inflict a most cruel injustice upon every nurse on the Register, both on the General and Supplementary Parts, because, whilst V.A.D.s, Nurse-Midwives, and persons without any hospital training who have been in attendance upon the sick for three years before 1916 can claim admission to the General Part of the Register up to July 14th, 1923, and the resulting privileges of legal status, the title of Registered Nurse, and the right to wear the protected Uniform and Badge, it is now too late for well-qualified nurses on the Supplementary Parts to claim admission to the General Part. They are permanently side-tracked.

The College letter, dated December 29th, 1922, to the General Nursing Council, proves conclusively that the interests of “ Existing Nurses ” have been sacrificed to those of the untrained, and the V.A.D.s, by the Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its Council; and their *volte face* a few weeks ago, when Dr. Chapple had taken steps to give effect to the ignoble compact made between himself and Sir Arthur Stanley in December last, in no way affects the situation. The sacrifice of the sick public, and the betrayal of the Registered Nurses, was practically accomplished.

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